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Morpeth



ANNUAL  
REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1950



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# REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1950

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Morpeth*

*RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL*

LADIES & GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1950.

The vital statistics remain quite satisfactory, although rather less so than in 1949.

There has been a slight decline in the birth rate and a slight increase in the death rate, but both are still better than the corresponding rates for the Country as a whole.

The still-birth rate has again fallen very considerably, but the Infantile Mortality Rate, although it is not quite so high as in 1948, is very much higher than in 1949.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases were more prevalent than in the previous year, but it is gratifying to be able to report that Diphtheria was entirely absent from the area. The percentage of children immunised against Diphtheria is very satisfactory and the parents in the Rural District are to be commended for the support they have given to this life- and health-saving measure. They must not, however, permit themselves to fall into the error of supposing that, because this disease has been banished, it no longer constitutes a threat to their children. There must be continuing effort to maintain the immunisation state of the child population.

It is pleasing to be able to report progress in various schemes for improving the water supplies in several parts of the district, especially to report that work actually commenced on the long-awaited and sorely-needed scheme at Broomhill, Red Row and East Chevington. This will not only improve the water supply, but will make possible the abolition of the large numbers of privy middens in that area. It should prove an enormous benefit to the large population living there and make life easier for the housewives.

The improved supplies at Cambo and Scotsgap, and at Longhorsley, will also be very welcome. 1950 should be notable as the year in which Gladstone's Buildings, Longhorsley, for so long a source of worry to the Council, at last received an adequate and satisfactory water supply.

In conclusion, I have to express my appreciation of the consideration extended to me by members of the Council and of the assistance given to me by the staffs of the Health and other Departments of the Council.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C. B. McGregor,

*Medical Officer of Health  
Rural District of Morpeth.*

## RURAL DISTRICT OF MORPETH

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### OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

---

Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	CATHERINE B. MCGREGOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., B.Hy. D.P.H.
Sanitary	}	Inspector	...	MR. T. T. WATSON, R.S.I. & S.I.J.B. Certs., Meat Inspector's Certs.
Housing				
Meat				
Additional Sanitary Inspector	...	...	...	Mr. W. G. WEBB, R.S.I. & S.I.J.B. & Meat Inspector's Certs.
Offices of the Rural District Council	...	...	...	Dacre Street, Morpeth.
Telephone	...	...	...	Morpeth 24.
Offices of the M.O.H.	...	...	...	146 Station Road, Ashington.
Telephone	...	...	...	Ashington 2287.

# RURAL DISTRICT OF MORPETH

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1950

### SECTION A

#### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres ...	79,193
Registrar General estimate of Resident Population mid-1950 ...	17,650
Rateable Value ...	£66,926
One Penny Rate produces ...	£254-8-0½
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1950) ...	4,690

#### VITAL STATISTICS

Births :—Live Births:				Total		Male		Female
	Legitimate	...	...	285	...	155	...	130
	Illegitimate	...	...	13	...	5	...	8
				<u>298</u>	...	<u>160</u>	...	<u>138</u>
	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ...							16.91
	Standard Birth Rate (Crude Birth Rate x Comparability factor 1.03) ...							17.41
Still Births :				Total		Male		Female
	Legitimate	...	...	3	...	2	...	1
	Illegitimate	...	...	-	...	-	...	-
				<u>3</u>		<u>2</u>		<u>1</u>
	Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births ...							9.97
	Rate per 1,000 of the population ...							0.17
Deaths :—				Total		Male		Female
				160	...	91	...	69
	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population ...							9.07
	Standard Death Rate (Crude Death Rate x Comparability factor 1.13) ...							10.25
	Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion (Heading 30 of the Registrar General's Short List) ...							Nil
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks :				Total		Male		Female
	Legitimate	...	...	4	...	3	...	1
	Illegitimate	...	...	-	...	-	...	-
				<u>4</u>		<u>3</u>		<u>1</u>
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year :								
	All Infants per 1,000 live births ...							40.26
	Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...							42.11
	Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...							Nil
	Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...							27
	Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...							Nil
	Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...							Nil
	Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...							1



The Registrar General supplies the following :—

### CAUSES OF DEATH, 1950

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1950									Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other forms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	7
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	11
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	16
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
20.	Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	16
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
26.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	5
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	0
34.	All other Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
									91	69

Death of Infants under 1 year:—

										Male		Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	...	—
										10		2

## INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1950

Disease	Under 1 wk.	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 mth.	1—3 mths.	3—6 mths.	6—9 mths.	9—12 mths.	Total under 1 year
Haemolytic Disease of the new-born	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Bronchopneumonia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Gastroenteritis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Congenital Abnormality ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Prematurity ... ..	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Septicaemia (Meningococcal) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Atelectasis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Total ... ..	4	—	—	—	4	3	1	4	—	12

The following table shows the comparative Mortality Rate during the past eight years:—

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Enteritis under 2 years ... ..	1	2	—	—	2	3	—	1
Infantile Deaths under 1 year ... ..	8	16	16	13	12	13	7	12
Infantile Mortality ... ..	27.97	54.98	55.56	42.07	37.62	40.60	21.87	40.26

## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

#### LABORATORY FACILITIES

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service in the Laboratory situated at Newcastle General Hospital. The extent to which the facilities have been utilised is shown below:—

Specimen sent by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
R.H.B. Chest Physician ... ..	Sputa for Tubercle ... ..	37	127
General Practitioners ... ..	do. ... ..	—	23
M.O.H. ... ..	Enteric Results ... ..	3	7
General Practitioners ... ..	do. ... ..	8	16
General Practitioners ... ..	Swabs for Diphtheria ... ..	—	19
General Practitioners ... ..	Swabs for Vincent's Angina ... ..	—	4
General Practitioners ... ..	Swabs for Hæm. Strep. ... ..	12	9

#### AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Ambulances are stationed as follows:—

Broomhill 2 (2 drivers).

Stobswood 1 (1 driver).

The western part of the district is served by ambulances stationed in Morpeth, and the Lynemouth and Linton areas mainly by ambulances stationed at Ashington.



## NURSING IN THE HOME

Nurses are stationed as follows :—

Cambo 1; Meldon 1; Felton 1; Longhorsley 1; and Widdrington 1.

Pegswood, Longhirst, Mitford and Hepscott districts are served by two General Nurses and three Midwives based in Morpeth.

## CLINICS

Child Welfare Centres, operated by the Northumberland County Council, were held regularly at Cambo, Linton, Lynemouth, Pegswood, Felton, Red Row and Widdrington, and a new Clinic was opened at Longhorsley.

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# SECTION C

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER

The water supplies of the area were described in detail in the Annual Report for 1946 and remain substantially unchanged, but improvements have been made or are in course of preparation in four parts of the district.

### ULGHAM, TRITLINGTON AND WEST CHEVINGTON

The scheme for providing an improved water supply from Hebron Reservoir to these three parishes came into operation in August, 1950.

### BROOMHILL

Work on the laying of new water-mains in this area commenced on 31st October, 1950. When this scheme is completed a greatly-improved water supply will be available in Broomhill, Red Row and East Chevington and will make possible the conversion of these areas to water-carriage of sewage. The insufficiency of the water supply in this part of the Rural District has, for many years, given cause for complaint, and the improvement now being prepared has been long awaited and much needed.

### CAMBO AND SCOTSGAP

Work on the scheme to improve the water supply in Cambo and Scotsgap commenced in April, 1950, and was completed in March, 1951. This will enable many properties, which previously depended on inadequate or unsatisfactory wells and springs, to obtain an ample supply of pure water.

### LONGHORSLEY

This scheme, which was approved by the Ministry of Health without a Public Inquiry, will give the village a supply of water from Tynemouth Corporation's water-main. Work commenced in September, 1950, but progress has been somewhat impeded by the fact that considerable rock-cutting has proved necessary. The work should, however, be completed in the late summer of 1951.

### GLADSTONE'S BUILDINGS, LONGHORSLEY

In June, 1950, these houses were, at last, provided with an adequate supply of water by becoming connected to the Longhorsley village supply. The long-standing nuisance from the inadequate, polluted spring supply, which previously was the only one available to the occupants of this property, was abated.

Other properties which, during the year, became connected to Tynemouth Corporation's main supplies were :—

Hebron Hill Farm.  
Stanton Town Head Farm.  
Old Stanton Hall.  
and eight houses at Tranwell.



## WATER SAMPLES

Thirty-three samples of water were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories, Westgate Road, Newcastle, for bacteriological examination. The bacteriological results were as follows:—

Date	Place of Collection	No. of Colonies per ml.		Coli Aerogenes per 100 ml.
		37°C.	22°C.	
13/ 2/50.	Tap, R.A.F. Station, Acklington ...	—	—	1
13/ 2/50.	Tap, Swarland Terrace, Red Row ...	—	—	3
4/ 4/50.	Causey Park Village, Storage Tank ...	—	—	Nil
4/ 4/50.	Hogg's Supply, Causey Park, Storage Tank ...	—	—	Nil
17/ 4/50.	Muckley Farm, Longhorsley, Deep Well ...	—	—	Nil
17/ 4/50.	East End, Longhorsley, Tap—Land Spring ...	—	—	Nil
18/ 4/50.	Northside, Meldon, Tap—Spring ...	—	—	1
18/ 4/50.	Throphill, Tap—Spring ...	—	—	Nil
18/ 7/50.	Netherwitton Village, Tap ...	—	—	Nil
18/ 7/50.	East Cottages, Longwitton, Tap ...	—	—	90
18/ 7/50.	Hill Top, Longwitton, Tap ...	—	—	1
18/ 7/50.	Thornton Moor Farm, Longwitton, Tap ...	—	—	160
1/ 8/50.	Hartburn School, Tap ...	—	—	90
1/ 8/50.	High Angerton, Farmyard Tap ...	—	—	25
1/ 8/50.	Middleton Hotel, Tap ...	—	—	180x
1/ 8/50.	Middleton Village, Well ...	—	—	35
8/ 8/50.	Longwitton Hall ...	—	—	90
8/ 8/50.	Longwitton, Collecting Chamber ...	—	—	50
8/ 8/50.	Thornton Moor Farm, Collecting Chamber ...	—	—	5
8/ 8/50.	Meldon Lodge, Tap ...	—	—	13
15/ 8/50.	Middleton, Land Spring—Collecting Chamber ...	—	—	25
15/ 8/50.	Meldon Village, School House, Land Spring—Tap ...	—	—	Nil
15/ 8/50.	East Molesden Farm, Well—Pump ...	—	—	180x
15/ 8/50.	West Molesden Farm, Well—Pump ...	—	—	180x
22/ 8/50.	West Coldside, Mitford ...	—	—	180x
22/ 8/50.	Middle Coldside, Mitford ...	—	—	11
22/ 8/50.	East Coldside Farm, Mitford ...	—	—	25
22/ 8/50.	Snuff Cottages, Mitford ...	—	—	Nil
23/10/50.	Amble Junction, Chevington, Shallow Well ...	—	—	Nil
24/10/50.	Hepscott, Reservoir ...	—	—	180x
31/10/50.	Hepscott, Reservoir ...	—	—	180x
21/11/50.	Hepscott, Reservoir ...	—	—	180x
21/11/50.	South Middleton, Tap, Farmhouse ...	—	—	50

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

### Scotsgap

A Public Inquiry was held at Scotsgap on 17th June, 1950, into the Council's proposal to provide a modern system of sewerage and sewage disposal in the village of Scotsgap. Originally, it was the Council's intention to include Cambo village in this scheme, but permission for this was refused by the Ministry of Health on grounds of expense.

The amended proposals were approved and will, when put into operation, allow the erection of Council houses at Scotsgap and the conversion of existing properties to water-carriage of sewage.

### Cresswell

A Public Inquiry into the Council's proposal to erect a public convenience at Cresswell was held on 1st November, 1950. While none denied the necessity for such a convenience in this village, which is a favourite picnic spot for thousands of holidaymakers every summer, a dispute arose as to the appropriate site for its erection. This matter was finally settled and the Ministry's approval was given, subject to the repair and extension of the outfall pipe being carried out to the satisfaction of the Medical Officer of Health. The extension, which proved necessary, added very considerably to the cost of the undertaking, but the urgent need for the provision of the amenity caused the Council to decide to proceed with the scheme.

Actual work has not yet commenced.

### Widdrington

A new public convenience was opened here on 30th June, 1950, but, unfortunately, certain members

of the community have so little regard for property other than their own that considerable wanton destruction has already been done to the building and fittings.

The following works were undertaken during the year :—

New Drains to take roof water	...	...	...	Hedgehope, Simonside and Hartside Terraces, East Chevington.
do.	...	...	...	Causey Park Farm (2 houses).
do.	...	...	...	Widdrington Old Colliery (4 houses).
do.	...	...	...	Co-op. Premises, East Chevington.
New Drains and Septic Tank	...	...	...	Ellington (2 houses).
New Drains connected to the Council's Sewer	...	...	...	Turnbull's Buildings, Broomhill (6 houses).
do.	do.	...	...	Pegswood (4 houses).
do.	do.	...	...	Woodside Farm (6 houses).

Cesspits and open channels in Deputy and Railway Rows were replaced by gullies and connected to the Council's sewer.

### ALTERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

New Eaves—Gutters and Downspouts to Houses	...	Simonside Terrace, East Chevington.
do.	do.	Linhope Terrace, East Chevington.
do.	do.	Many more Colliery Houses at Pegswood.

Many private owners and the National Coal Board have repaired houses after informal notice.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Conversion to the water-carriage system took place as follows :—

Widdrington Colliery	...	...	...	...	4
Ellington	...	...	...	...	2
Causey Park Farm	...	...	...	...	2
Co-operative Premises, East Chevington	...	...	...	...	2
Pegswood	...	...	...	...	4
Lane End Farm	...	...	...	...	1
Eshott South East Houses	...	...	...	...	1
Northside, Meldon	...	...	...	...	7
Longhorsley	...	...	...	...	2
Newton Park Farm	...	...	...	...	1
High Steads Farm	...	...	...	...	3
Woodside	...	...	...	...	5
West Thirston	...	...	...	...	1
					—
					35
					—

### SCHOOLS

There are 18 schools and all have a sufficient water supply.

Thirteen schools have the water-carriage system.

The five which have privies or pail closets are : Hepscott, Longhirst, Thirston, Mitford and Cambo.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection and disposal of refuse from many parishes is carried out by the Cleansing Department.

Four motor vehicles, one Bedford and three Karriers, ten cubic yards capacity, and two horses with specially-constructed carts are employed in this work. The majority of bins are emptied twice each week.

The following are the parishes which are included in the above service :—

1. Hepscott.	8. Ulgham.	15. Tranwell.
2. Pegswood.	9. Widdrington.	16. Mitford and Spital Hill.
3. Longhirst.	10. East Chevington.	17. Pigdon.
4. Old Moor.	11. West Chevington.	18. High and Low Highlaws.
5. Ellington.	12. Hadstone.	19. Benridge.
6. Lynemouth.	13. East and West Thirston.	20. Hebron.
7. Cresswell.	14. Longhorsley.	21. Cambo.
		22. Wallington.



In the parishes of East and West Thirston, Longhirst, Cresswell, Hepscott, Pigdon, Hebron, Cambo and Longhorsley, the majority of houses have privy middens or pail closets.

The number of houses in the above parishes is 4,258, and the population is 16,200.

The estimated weight of refuse collected was 12,500 tons and the estimated cost per ton for collection and disposal is 9/7.

The total number of houses in the area of the Morpeth Rural District at the end of 1950 was 4,690.

The mileage travelled by the four motor vehicles per year is 33,388.

### *SHOPS*

No action has been found necessary. Ten shops have installed Electric Water Heaters, which provide an abundant supply of really hot water at a moment's notice.

### *MOVEABLE DWELLINGS*

New licences granted to station moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	13
Renewal Licences	...	...	...	...	...	9

### *SMOKE ABATEMENT*

No action has been found necessary.

### *SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS*

There are (a) no public or (b) privately-owned swimming baths within the district.

### *ERADICATION OF BED BUGS*

Number of private houses found to be infested during the year	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Council houses found to be infested during the year	...	...	...	Nil
Number of houses disinfected during the year	...	...	...	48

The method employed for the disinfestation of houses is by means of "Zaldecide" as a spray and sulphur dioxide.

### *PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949*

The scavenging tips, disposal works, sewers and many inhabited areas have, during the year, received attention from the Council's rodent operator.

Situation of tips: Broomhill 1; East Chevington 1; Widdrington 1; Longhirst 1; Pegswood 1; Lynemouth 1; Longhorsley 1; Hepscott 1; and Old Moor 1.



SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT—Year ending 31st December,, 1950

	No. of Inspections during year	No. of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-Laws	No. of Informal Notices served	Defects remedied by informal action	No. of Statutory Notices served	Defects remedied after Statutory Notice	Legal Proceedings
<b>HOUSING</b>							
Structural Defects (Summary of Sheet 11) ... ..	809	156	86	156	—	—	—
Defective Food-Store ... ..	27	11	11	11	—	—	—
Dampness ... ..	130	116	4	116	—	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	42	18	—	—	—	—	—
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>							
Insufficient ... ..	23	13	13	13	—	—	—
Unsatisfactory ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>DRAINAGE</b>							
Insufficient ... ..	198	140	2	140	—	—	—
Defective ... ..	—	36	18	18	—	—	—
<b>SANITARY CONVENIENCES</b>							
Insufficient ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Defective ... ..	74	48	8	48	—	—	—
Food Premises ... ..	267	4	4	4	—	—	—
Shop Acts ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dairies ... ..	32	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughter-houses ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc. ... ..	154	6	6	6	—	—	—
Offensive Trades ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workplaces ... ..	48	—	—	—	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals ... ..	14	1	1	1	—	—	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Recept. ... ..	234	78	32	78	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances ... ..	12	2	2	2	—	—	—
Total ...	2064	629	187	593	—	—	—

## SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED

	By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice	Total
SANITARY CONVENIENCES			
Privies abolished ... ..	33	—	33
„ repaired ... ..	65	—	65
Pail Closets abolished ... ..	—	—	—
Water Closets provided ... ..	35	—	35
No. of above for which Grant was given, P.H.A., 1936, S.47 ... ..	28	—	28
Sanitary Bins provided ... ..	28	—	28
„ „ renewed ... ..	64	—	64
DRAINAGE			
New Drains constructed ... ..	15	—	15
Drains repaired or reconstructed ... ..	3	—	3
Additional Gullies provided ... ..	140	—	140
Old Gullies replaced ... ..	—	—	—
Scullery Sinks provided ... ..	6	—	6
„ Waste Pipes repaired ... ..	2	—	2
„ „ „ trapped ... ..	—	—	—
Yards repaired or reconstructed ... ..	6	—	6
WATER SUPPLY			
Sources closed or discontinued . Nil	Number of houses affected ... Nil		
NEW SERVICES PROVIDED			
By Local Authority ... .. 1	Number of Houses ... .. 5		
By Private Owner ... .. —	Number of Houses ... .. —		
No. of Dwelling Houses supplied by (a) Internal Tap ... 3,062 approx.			
(b) Standpipe ... .. 1,157			

## FACTORIES ACT

There are in the district 31 factories and workshops. The following table gives details of the inspections made and the defects found during 1950.

There are no outworkers in the district.

1.—**INSPECTIONS** for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	31	48	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order 1938† ... ..	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other Premises under the Act † (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total ...	31	48	—	—

† S.R. & O. 1938 No. 488.

‡ i.e., Works of Building and Engineering Construction, Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.

2.—Cases in which *DEFECTS* were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ... ..					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	2	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	2	1	—	—	—

SECTION D

HOUSING

*Number of New Houses erected during the year:—*

Houses Completed during the year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority, Permanent ...	116	—	116
Temporary ...	—	—	—
(b) By other Bodies or Persons			
Permanent ...	—	14	14
Temporary ...	—	—	—

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

1. *INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR*

Category	Classification	Number
1	Satisfactory in all respects ... ..	88
2	Minor defects ... ..	82
3	Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement	115
4	Appropriate for reconditioning under Housing (Rural Workers) Acts ... ..	235
5	Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense ... ..	79



2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers ... ..	158
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS	
(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners ... ..	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..	Nil
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners ... ..	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..	Nil
(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses closed but not demolished (H.A., 1949, S.3) ...	26
(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	Nil
4. NUMBER OF HOUSES PERMANENTLY DISCONTINUED AS DWELLINGS AND NOT INCLUDED ABOVE ... ..	
	2

#### HOUSING ACT, 1949 (Sec. 20)

(a) Number of separate dwelling-houses in respect of which applications for grant have been received	10
(b) Number of separate dwelling-houses in respect of which applications for grant have been approved	5

## SECTION E

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### MILK SUPPLIES

No. of Registered Dairies ... ..	5
„ „ „ Distributors ... ..	10

Since 1st October, 1949, control of premises used for the production of milk has been in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. All milk samples recorded hereunder were, therefore, taken from dairies or from milk in the course of retail distribution. They have, however, been classified as in previous years as a matter of interest and for the sake of comparison. The total number of samples is small, but there is little indication that the change in management has yet produced any material advantage in the way of cleaner milk supplies. It is, to say the least, doubtful whether any such effect is likely as a result of the alteration.

The following is a summary of the bacteriological reports on samples of milk, set out in various categories:—

Total number of samples taken ... ..	21
Producers inside the Rural District (taken by “Inside” Officials) ... ..	8
Producers outside the Rural District (taken by “Inside” Officials) ... ..	3
Producers inside the Rural District (taken by “Outside” Officials) ... ..	10

*Farms Inside the Rural District (Samples by "Inside" Officials)*

Tuberculin Tested ... 3 samples.  
 1 satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.  
 x 2 failed Methylene Blue Test.  
 x 1 sample was examined for B. Tuberculosis — Negative.  
 Accredited ... 1 sample.  
 1 satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.  
 Undesignated ... 4 samples.  
 x (1) 2 satisfied Methylene Blue Test.  
 x (2) 2 failed Methylene Blue Test.  
 x (1) 2 samples examined for B. Tuberculosis — both negative.  
 x (2) 1 sample examined for B. Tuberculosis — result inconclusive.

*Farms Outside the Rural District (samples by "Inside" Officials)*

Pasteurised ... 2 samples.  
 2 satisfied Methylene Blue Test.  
 Undesignated ... 1 sample.  
 1 failed Methylene Blue Test.

*Farms Inside the Rural District (Samples by "outside" Officials)*

Tuberculin Tested ... 4 samples.  
 x 2 satisfied Methylene Blue Test.  
 2 failed Methylene Blue Test.  
 x 1 sample examined for B. Tuberculosis — negative.  
 Undesignated ... 6 samples.  
 3 satisfied Methylene Blue Test.  
 3 failed Methylene Blue Test.

**MEAT AND OTHER FOODS**

The following foods were surrendered in the Morpeth Rural District to the Council's Meat Inspector :—

Beef (Home-killed)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	357 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	stones*
Beef (Imported)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	stones
Mutton (Home-killed)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	stones*
Mutton (Imported)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	stone
Pork (Home-killed)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	stones*
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	lbs.
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	lbs.
Veal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	stones*
Offal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	424 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	stones*
Danish Pork	...	...	...	...	3 tins	...	...	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	lbs.
Chopped Pork	...	...	...	...	5 tins	...	...	5 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	lbs.
Luncheon Meat	...	...	...	...	134 tins	...	...	114	lbs.
Veal Loaf	...	...	...	...	2 tins	...	...	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	lbs.
Dutch Brawn	...	...	...	...	23 tins	...	...	44	lbs.
Minced Beef	...	...	...	...	2 tins	...	...	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	lbs.
Crab Meat	...	...	...	...	1 tin	...	...	<sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	lb.
Meat and Gravy	...	...	...	...	1 tin	...	...	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	lbs.
Cooked Ham	...	...	...	...	1 tin	...	...	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	lbs.
Cooked Ham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	lbs.
Rabbit	...	...	...	...	2 tins	...	...	2	lbs.
Peas	...	...	...	...	9 tins	...	...	10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	lbs.
Dried Peas	...	...	...	...	3 pkts.	...	...	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	lbs.
Beans	...	...	...	...	8 tins	...	...	8	lbs.
Butter Beans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	lb.
Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	...	17 tins	...	...	22	lbs.
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	3 tins	...	...	3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	lbs.
Tomato Soup	...	...	...	...	2 tins	...	...	2	lbs.
Jam	...	...	...	...	57 tins	...	...	85 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	lbs.
Apples	...	...	...	...	2 tins	...	...	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	lbs.



Peaches	...	...	...	...	6 tins	...	...	11¼ lbs.
Plums	...	...	...	...	1 tin	...	...	17/8 lbs.
Pears	...	...	...	...	6 tins	...	...	A.2. size
Pears (Frozen)	...	...	...	...	4 pkts.	...	...	4 lbs.
Brambles (Frozen)	...	...	...	...	2 pkts	...	...	1 lb.
Raspberries (Frozen)	...	...	...	...	8 pkts.	...	...	6½ lbs.
Strawberries (Frozen)	...	...	...	...	7 pkts.	...	...	37/8 lbs.
Frofrute	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1½ dozen
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	4 blocks	...	...	3½ lbs.
Ice Cream (Brickettes)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Iced Lollipops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Beetroot	...	...	...	...	1 tin	...	...	1¼ lbs.
Beetroot Ketchup	...	...	...	...	1 jar	...	...	¾ lb.
Baby Food	...	...	...	...	1 tin	...	...	¼ lb.
Prune Puree	...	...	...	...	2 tins	...	...	½ lb.
Glen Cetti	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 lb.
Crawfish	...	...	...	...	2 tins	...	...	1 lb.
Salmon	...	...	...	...	7 tins	...	...	6 lbs.
Sardines	...	...	...	...	2 tins	...	...	½ lb.
Cod Liver and Roe Paste	...	...	...	...	19 tins	...	...	4½ lbs.

\* These include the following amounts condemned by the Council's Meat Inspector at Morpeth Borough Abattoir :—

Beef	...	...	...	...	335 st.	8 lbs.
Mutton	...	...	...	...	50 st.	13 lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	...	12 st.	7 lbs.
Veal	...	...	...	...	18 st.	
Offal	...	...	...	...	424 st.	7 lbs.

## SECTION F

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

#### HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is now provided by the Regional Hospital Board, either at Ashington or in Newcastle.

	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Pneumonia	7	Not known	—
Dysentery	5	2	—
Scarlet Fever	46	1	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Malaria	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis, non-paralytic	2	2	—
Poliomyelitis, paralytic	1	—	—
Food Poisoning	29	—	—
Para-Typhoid Fever	1	1	—
Measles	130	—	—
Whooping Cough	22	—	—



**TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
UNDER AGE GROUPS**

	Un. 1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65	unkn.	Total cases notified
Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	7
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	5
Scarlet Fev.	—	—	3	4	4	22	10	3	—	—	—	—	—	46
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Malaria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomy'tis, non-para.	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Poliomy'tis paralytic	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Pois'g	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	5	9	1	6	29
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Measles ...	8	11	18	19	13	58	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	130
Whooping C.	2	1	2	6	1	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22

### ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE

This term includes death from the following seven diseases only: Smallpox, Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Measles, Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years.

The Zymotic death rate was 0.057 per 1,000 of the population.

### ENTERIC FEVERS

No case of Typhoid Fever was notified during the year.

One case of Paratyphoid Fever occurred. The patient was an elderly man who, following recovery, became a chronic carrier. The source of the infection was not determined, in spite of careful investigation.

### SCARLET FEVER

The incidence of this disease again increased in 1950, and 46 cases were notified, but the illness continued to be mild and there were no deaths. One patient was removed to hospital.

### MEASLES

This disease remained rather prevalent throughout the year, and in the last two months became epidemic. In all, 130 cases occurred, of which 80 were notified in November and December. No deaths occurred.

### WHOOPING COUGH

A slight increase occurred in the incidence of this disease, with a total of 22 cases being notified. No deaths occurred.

### DIPHTHERIA

It is gratifying to report that not a single case of Diphtheria occurred during the year, in any part of the district.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Visits were paid to all schools in the Rural District.

Altogether, the primary course of treatment was given at the schools, at Welfare Centres, and by private doctors to 243 pre-school children and 164 school children. In addition, 672 children received re-inforcing injections.

At 31st December, 1950, the immunisation state of the child population was estimated to be as follows:—

Pre-school children immunised	...	...	1,010	...	66.57%
School children immunised	...	...	2,384	...	96.60%
Total children immunised	...	...	3,394	...	85.19%

## FOOD POISONING

In August, 1950, an outbreak of food-poisoning was reported to the Health Department.

On investigation it was found that 28 persons living in three adjacent streets had been affected, and that all the victims had eaten pressed meat manufactured at a local butcher's shop. The illness had an incubation period of only a few hours and was very acute, but of short duration. All patients had recovered or were recovering within 24 hours.

Fortunately, the total amount of meat was not large and it was easy to trace the households which had received it.

All such households were visited, portions of meat were obtained for examination, and all the rest was destroyed.

The illness was typical of poisoning by staphylococcal toxin, and staphylococci were recovered in large numbers on bacteriological examination of the meat.

Only one man was involved in the preparation and sale of the pressed meat, and staphylococci were recovered from his stools, but, as he had eaten some of the meat, it was impossible to say whether he had been a carrier or not.

The premises on which the meat was prepared were deficient in washing facilities, but, as a result of the outbreak, it proved easy to persuade the management to improve the premises, although, previously, suggestions for improvement had been ignored.

Faults in the method of preparation and the need for increased use of refrigeration were also pointed out to the employees. It can, therefore, be said that some good came out of the unfortunate episode.

One other isolated case of food poisoning occurred in the district, but no investigation was possible, though it seems likely that the vehicle of infection was a pie, prepared and eaten in another district.

## TUBERCULOSIS

### *New Cases and Mortality during 1950*

				NEW CASES				DEATHS			
				Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5 - 15 years	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15 - 25 years	...	...	...	4	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
25 - 35 years	...	...	...	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—
35 - 45 years	...	...	...	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45 - 65 years	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Over 65 years	...	...	...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
				8	4	1	4	2	—	1	—

## TUBERCULOSIS

Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis declined from 16 to 12, and cases of the Non-Pulmonary form increased from 4 to 5.

There were two deaths from the Pulmonary type of the disease and one from the Non-Pulmonary, compared with four and one respectively in the previous year.

Death rate per 1,000 of population — 0.17.

## CANCER MORTALITY DURING 1950

	MALES						FEMALES					
	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	Total	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	Total
Gall Bladder ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Stomach ...	—	1	—	—	3	4	—	—	—	1	1	2
Rectum ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Prostate ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brain ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Bone ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Breast ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Pancreas ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Colon ...	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	1
Abdomen ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thyroid ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Uterus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Hypo-pharynx ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Bladder ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mouth ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	1	—	5	8	14	2	—	3	4	4	13

Death rate per 1,000 of population — 1.53.



# ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH — 1950

## VITAL STATISTICS

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1950. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns

								England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
<i>Births</i>								<b>Rates per 1,000 Home Population</b>			
Live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.8	17.6	16.7	17.8
Still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.37	0.45	0.38	0.36
<i>Deaths</i>											
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.6	12.3	11.6	11.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.39
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.07
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis (incl. polioencephalitis)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.46	0.49	0.45	0.48
<i>Notifications (Corrected)</i>											
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.50	1.56	1.61	1.23
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.60	3.97	3.15	3.21
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.17	0.19	0.16	0.17
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.39	8.76	8.36	6.57
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.70	0.77	0.61	0.50
Acute poliomyelitis (incl. polioencephalitis)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.08
Non-Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.05
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.17	0.16	0.14	0.25
<i>Deaths</i>								<b>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</b>			
All causes under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29.8 (a)	33.8	29.4	26.3
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.9	2.2	1.6	1.0
<i>Notifications (Corrected)</i>								<b>Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births</b>			
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5.81	7.43	4.33	6.03

## MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

International List No. and cause	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
651. Abortion with Sepsis	0.09	7
650, 652. Other Abortion	0.05	4
640-649. 670-678. Complication of pregnancy and delivery	0.54	
681. Sepsis of childbirth and the Puerperium	0.03	
680, 682-689. Other complications of the Puerperium	0.15	

(a) Per 1,000 related live births.











